

Message Text

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ACTION EB-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EA-06 INR-05 L-01 H-01 PRS-01

SP-02 NSC-05 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 /039 W

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O R 210627Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9593

INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 7549

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD KS

SUBJ: POSSIBLE US REACTION TO INCREASED MUSHROOM IMPORTS

REF: STATE 231141, TAIPEI 6332, FASTO 121 (NOTAL)

1. EMBASSY WILL BE UNABLE TO ARRANGE DISCUSSIONS FOR AMBASSADOR YEUTTER WITH ROK OFFICIALS BEFORE MONDAY, OCTOBER 4, 1976. AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES MINISTRY (MAF) TIED UP WITH PRESIDENTIAL MEETING SEPTEMBER 29 AND OCTOBER 1 IS NATIONAL HOLIDAY. FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS ARE ENGAGED WITH SAUDIS THIS WEEK, SWEDISH CONSULTATIONS FROM 29 SEPTEMBER AND CANADIAN NEGOTIATIONS FROM OCTOBER 4. HOWEVER THEY WILL ACCOMMODATE TO AMBASSADOR YEUTTER'S SCHEDULE. MCI PRINCIPAL, ASST. MINISTER PARK PIL SOO, IS FULLY ENGAGED THIS WEEK WITH VISITING SAUDI ARABIAN TRADE MINISTER SALIM, AND NOH CHIN SHIK IS NOW IN WASHINGTON FOR US/ROK TEXTILE TALKS.

2. MOFA AND MAF HAD RECEIVED AMBASSADOR HAHM'S REPORT, BUT MCI WAS NOT AWARE OF IT. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF NOH CHIN SHIK'S PRESENCE TO BRIEF HIM ON THE DIMENSIONS OF THE CANNED MUSHROOM PROBLEM BEFORE HE RETURNS TO SEOUL ON OR ABOUT SEPTEMBER 25.

3. WE UNDERSTAND THAT SENATOR SCOTT'S MUSHROOM BILL HAS BECOME
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A RIDER TO SENATOR LONG'S HORSE BREEDING STOCK BILL COMING

UP FOR SENATE VOTE ON SEPTEMBER 24 AND REQUEST BEING KEPT INFORMED ON ITS OUTCOME.

4. OFFICE OF THE AGATT IS PREPARING A REPLY TO THIRD REFTTEL. HOWEVER, VERY HIGH US DEMAND APPEARS TO BE THE CHIEF FACTOR FOR INCREASED IMPORTS IN JUNE AND JULY, 1976. EARLIER THREATS OF US RESTRAINT ACTION IN 1975, DESPITE HIGH US DEMAND, WERE MET BY DELIBERATE SHIFT OF EXPORTS FIRST TO EC COUNTRIES THEN CANADA, WHICH IN TURN SHOWED INCLINATION TOWARD RESTRAINT ACTIONS. ROKG AND INDUSTRY HAVE ESTIMATED US DEMAND UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES OF FREE TRADE AS AT LEAST TREBLE THE LEVEL AT WHICH PROTECTIONIST ACTIVITIES LIMITED TO A SINGLE REGION OF THE U.S. HAVE THUS FAR ATTEMPTED TO SUPPRESS IT. THEY HAVE ASSUMED THAT THE BENEFITS TO CONSUMERS AND ANTI-INFLATIONARY CONTRIBUTION TO THE TOTAL ECONOMY IS FAR MORE ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE USG THAN THE COSTS OF ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE TO THE PENNSYLVANIA-OHIO AREA.
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